

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/847,417

Examiner

James A. Reagan

Applicant(s)

KUJIRAI, YASUHIRO

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 15 June 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in response to the RCE filed on 15 June 2005.
2. Claims 1-11 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-17 have been examined.

Drawings

4. The subject matter of this application admits of illustration by a drawing to facilitate understanding of the invention. Applicant is required to furnish a drawing under 37 CFR 1.81(c). No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-17 are allowed. See Reasons for Allowance under separate heading.

Reasons For Allowance

6. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the art of record, taken individually or combination, disclose at least the steps/components of:

- *judgment means for judging whether or not a secured print is designated;*
- *display means for displaying an input screen on which a document name corresponding to a print job is inputted, in response to a designation of the print*

job from an application, in a case where said judgment means judges that the secured print is designated;

- *setting means for setting the document name inputted using the input screen to the print job to change the document name of the print job before print data of the print job is generated such that a third person can not recognize an attribute of the print job;*

More specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose printing a document in a secure manner on a printer that may be remotely located in relation to the person wishing to print the document. To do so, identifying information for the document, such as the document's name, is replaced with new information such that the attributes of the document may not be ascertained by a third party. This new information is requested each time a secure print job is designated. The new information is the used to generate print job data that is transmitted to the printer. Upon receipt of the print job data, the printer interprets the print job data in order to print the document. In this way, a third person cannot recognize an attribute of the print job, thus ensuring secure printing.

Independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10 are distinguished over the closest prior art of Mullin et al. (US 5,970,218A), which teaches "A networked system having a plurality of workstations and a peripheral device, the peripheral device having a printing function, memory for storing a plurality of private print-ready jobs and input means for manually inputting information into the peripheral device. The peripheral device is also capable of accepting a private print job together with a PIN from a given workstation, placing the private print job into a queue of print jobs, converting the private print job into a private print-ready job, storing the private print-ready job in memory, and notifying the given workstation when the private job is print-ready. At any time thereafter, the peripheral device may accept a manually input PIN from a user physically present at the peripheral device, compare the PIN accepted from the given workstation with the PIN accepted from the physically present user and, if the PIN accepted from the given workstation corresponds to the PIN accepted from the physically present user, it selects the

private print-ready job as the next job to be printed, and prints the print-ready job" (abstract). As recited in independent claim 1, it is clear that the Applicant's invention is distinguished over the Mullin invention in at least the step/component of *setting means for setting the document name inputted using the input screen to the print job to change the document name of the print job before print data of the print job is generated such that a third person can not recognize an attribute of the print job*. Although Mullin does disclose secure printing and using a PIN, Mullin does not disclose renaming a secure document before printing.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - HARADA, MICHIIYA (JP 1,1165,446 A) discloses the printer comprises a normal mode for printing print data of a normal low confidentiality and a confidential mode for printing print data of a high confidentiality. In the confidential mode, a controller 34 writes print data received from a host system in a user storage area of a memory 32, collates it with a password input from an operating and displaying unit 35, a received user ID, a user ID and a password registered with a password table of a key code memory 33, reads the data stored in the user storage area of the memory 32 only in the case of bringing the user ID and the password into coincidence, and conducts a printing operation.
 - Setup Guide discloses a method of secure printing using a password or pin number.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **James A. Reagan** whose telephone number is **571.272.6710**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **571.272.6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> . Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866.217.9197** (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

571-273-8300 [Official communications, After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

571-273-8300 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window**:

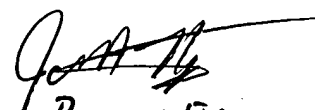
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JAR

25 August 2005


Primary Examiner
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